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AN *Evangelical Epistle* TO THE People of God, In Derision call'd QUAKERS.

By their Antient Friend and Brother in Christ, George Whitehead.

Rev. 2. 10. *Be thou Faithful unto Death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life.*
James 1. 12. *Which the Lord hath promised to them that Love him.*

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Evangelical Epiſtle, &c.

Dear Friends, Brethren, Tender Hearted and Well-affected People, whom our Gracious Lord God hath called out of Darkneſs, Sin and Error, into his marvelous Light, Righteouſneſs, and Ever-living bleſſed unchangeable Truth, to be a peculiar choſen People unto himſelf, to exalt his Name, and ſhew forth his Praiſe in your Day, Age, and Generation, by an Innocent, Righteous and Holy Converſation, and bringing forth the fruits of Holineſs, that the End and Reward may be Everlaſting Life unto you in our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; In his tender Love, and Bowels of Mercies, My Soul and whole Heart ſincerely Salutes you; earneſtly deſiring and praying that his Grace, Love, and Peace may plentifully abound unto you and among you.

I Having been for many years greatly concerned in the Work of the Lord our God, to ſerve him in Spirit in the

Goſpel of his dear Son, and in true Labour of Love to his Church and People; To them my ſincere and tender Love in Chriſt Jeſus is as conſtant and fervent as ever, and greatly abounding beyond verbal or written Expreſſions.

And, My dear Friends, the Lord having, by his Grace and effectual working of his Power, made me Inſtrumental in his hand for the Turning of many to his Divine Grace and Truth; from Darkneſs to the true Light, from Satan's Power to God, from the Fleſh to his bleſſed Spirit: As alſo for to encourage and ſtrengthen them therein, according to the ability he hath given me, and Truſt committed unto me; I ſincerely deſire and humbly hope faithfully to diſcharge the ſame to the laſt.

And accordingly, as I was lately waiting upon the Lord, early in the Morning, and Meditating in his Goſpel Truths and Diſcoveries, HE was pleaſed to bring a Weight, and lay a Preſſure upon me, his Word and Power working livingly in me, and plainly ſignifying to me after this manner: *Viſit my People, my Heritage, with an Evangelical Epiſtle, a Chriſtian Epiſtle,*

piſtle, a Tender Epiſtle in dominion of Life and Truth, as it is now manifeſt beyond all Controverſy, and above all Strife and Contentions, according to that Spiritual Miniſtry, Divine and Chriſtian Teſtimony committed unto thee.

My dear Friends, I have accordingly given diligence to Write unto you, and to Communicate ſuch weighty matters as the Lord is pleas'd to open and lay upon me to impart unto you, out of the aboundings of his dear and tender Love and Life in my very Heart and Soul, towards his whole Heritage in the preſent and future Age and Ages, Bleſſed be his Name for ever.

Well-beloved Friends, The bleſſed *Day of Chriſt*, and of his Power, which (after a long night of Apoſtacy and great Darkneſs) hath dawned and broken forth, and greatly ſpread in theſe latter Ages, hath produced and brought to paſs great and worthy things, in order to promote his Kingdom of Righteouſneſs and Peace in the Earth; the power of Darkneſs, and dark Enmity (which at firſt ſtrongly appeared, and wrought againſt the living Truth, and holy Seed, and Us the

living Witneſſes thereof) being much allayed, and rough ways made plain and ſmooth, and a door of entrance open'd in many hearts for a tender reception of the bleſſed Truth in the Love thereof, and many ſecretly inclined to ſeek after God, and the knowledge of his Way, his holy and living Truth, as it is in Chriſt Jeſus, in Life and Power. Let all, who in any meaſure know the Lord, prize his great Goodneſs and tender Mercies, and in his Light walk, and live in Love and Peace, as true and lively Examples of Chriſtianity, in a true Chriſtian Life, thereby to be Preachers of the ſame.

God has been pleaſed, even in our Age, to raiſe up a great cloud of Witneſſes, and to encompaſs his People therewith, for the begetting and encreaſe of true Faith, and Obedience thereof among the Children of Men; and many faithful Witneſſes whom the Lord, at firſt, did chooſe and raiſe up among us, have faithfully ſerv'd out their Generations, finiſhed their Courſe, and ended their Days in Peace, and are gathered into their everlaſting Reſt, in our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, from their Labours and Hardſhips; and

few of that firſt ſtock of Faithful Brethren remain with us; yet their memory, which is bleſſed, remains living and freſh upon my Spirit to this day, as having early had a ſhare among them of that *dear Love and innocent Life, that comfortable fellowſhip of the holy Spirit, yea, that comfort of Love*, which we together partook of in Chriſt Jeſus, our Light, our Life and our Salvation, to whom be Glory and Dominion for ever and ever. Rev. 1. 6.

O that Primitive Love, that firſt Love wherein we were Eſpouſed unto Chriſt, as a Chaſte Virgin to one Husband, and United one to another in him to our great and mutual comfort; and wherein many faithful Friends lived unto the end of their days, and finiſhed their Courſe with Joy!

This firſt Love was *the Love of our Eſpouſals*, herein was the *Kindneſs of Iſraels youth* which the Lord remembred. O, what tender Love, what Brotherly Kindneſs did abound among Friends in our early days! I very well remember the ſame, how it was with us and among us, fifty years ago, and for many years after in many parts of this Nation (and the Jer. 2. 2

ſame Love doth and will encreaſe in all the faithful in Chriſt) What fellowſhip of the Spirit, What tender Bowels and Mercies, What Comfort of Love, What Conſolation in Chriſt Jeſus, we felt and partook of in thoſe early days? And they proſpered to the end who kept their Primitive Love, their firſt Love, their chaſte Love to *Chriſt*, and one to another; The remembrance whereof, I hope, ſhall ever live with me, and in greater fullneſs be enjoyed with thoſe (and with all his *Faithful Ones*) in the World to come; in that Heavenly Kingdom, and Incorruptible Inheritance, which will never fade away: O Glory for ever.

Phil. 2. 1.

1 Pet. 1. 4.

'Tis natural (even of the Divine nature) to all who truly Love God and his dear Son our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, to Love his People, to Love his Followers, his Children, his Flock and Family, and to keep in union and ſpiritual fellowſhip with them, and to Love one another, not in word only, but in deed and in truth; ſuch can truly ſay with *Job*, that man of integrity, *His way have I not declined; the commandment of his lips have I not gone back from, the words of his mouth (the Lord's*

Job. 23

Lord's Mouth) I have eſteemed more than my neceſſary food, and with Chriſt's Spouſe, why ſhould I be as one that turns aſide from the flocks of his Companions? Why ſhould I turn aſide from ſuch bleſſed and faithful Companions, whom the Lord Chriſt hath ſo highly dignified and honoured as to be his Companions, to be in ſuch bleſſed union with him, and nearneſs in Spirit unto him? Why ſhould I forſake ſuch good company, ſuch bleſſed company, to fall into evil company, whoſe ways lead to death and deſtruction? Why ſhould I forget *Jeruſalem the City of truth*, or be unmindful of *Zion* and her proſperity? Let me not forget the true Church, the faithful and chaſte Spouſe of Chriſt, nor the Bleſſed Communion of the Saints in Light, the ſanctified in Chriſt Jeſus. Cant. 1. 7. Zec. 8. 3.

Dear Friends and tender hearted Ones, who Believe in the Light, in the Name and Power of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, God's Power, and Love him in ſincerity and truth, being ſanctified by his Grace and good Spirit, unto the unfeigned Love of the Brethren; Keep to *That, your primitive Love, your firſt Love*, begotten by his 1 Pet. 1 22.

his Word and Power, and keep that Faith which worketh by Love, looking unto him who is the Author of it; that your Faith in Chriſt and Love to all his Saints and true Servants may encreaſe, and abound more and more, true living Faith and true Love grow together, and work together, as well as *that Faith*, and a good Conſcience are inſeparable Companions; the Myſtery of Faith being held in a pure Conſcience.

Ephes. 1. 15. 1 Theſ. 3. 12. 2 Theſ. 1. 3.

And 'tis by this Faith that we ſtand, and the Juſt ſhall live: This is the Faith of the Son of God, which is in him, in his Light, in his Name, in his Power; All you who are partakers thereof keep it, and hold faſt, the holy Profeſſion, the Living Teſtimony of This your Faith without Wavering. None can fight the good fight of Faith without keeping it, and living in it, and by it; in keeping cloſely to the Word of Faith and Life, even in Chriſt the Word, loving his appearance in Spirit, in Life and Power.

Hab. 2. 4. Heb. 10. 23.

His faithful Followers and ſpiritual Warriers, who fight the good fight of Faith, they lay hold of Eternal Life, and obtain victory over Sin and Satan, over Tem-

1 Tim. 6. 12.

Temptations and Afflictions; how great ſoever the Fight of Affliction may for a time or at times appear: The Crown of Righteouſneſs, the Crown of Life, even the Crown of Glory, that will never fade away, is laid up in ſtore, 'tis reſerved in Heaven where the incorruptible and never fading Inheritance is prepared for all them who truly Believe and Hope to the end, who are faithful unto Death, they ſhall not fail of receiving the Crown of Life and Glory, which the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the righteous Judge, will give unto all them who truly love his appearance in Spirit and Power, whereby they are given to believe, and are ſupported in the true Faith and Obedience thereof. 1 Pet. 1. 4. 2 Tim. 4. 8.

I deſire none may faint nor ſuffer unbelief to Enter, who have Entered into the ſpiritual Warfare, and into the ſpiritual Journey, or Heavenly Race; But truſt ſtedfaſtly in that Light, in that Grace, in that divine Power, given and encreaſed by the Coming, the Appearance and Revelation of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; whoſe glorious Goſpel Day is dawned, and hath appeared in order to ſhine over Nations and Peoples, he is on his Luk. 1. 78.

way,

way, and in his work to promote his own Kingdom and Government, that his Dominion may Extend to the Ends of the Earth, and his Salvation (by his Light) be tendered to the Inhabitants thereof: As the Sufferings of Chriſt were ſhewn to the holy Prophets, by his Spirit, and the Glory that ſhould follow, and that thorow Sufferings and Death he ſhould enter into his Glory, and be Crowned with Glory and Honour, and ſet upon his Throne at the right hand of the Majeſty in the Heavens; it was that he might extend his great Power and Dominion, and Make Known the ſame unto the Inhabitants of the Earth; *All Judgment*, and *all Power* in Heaven and Earth being given and committed to the Son of God, who ſuffered that he might Reign in Glory: To whom be Glory and Dominion for ever and ever.

1 Pet. 1. 11.

Mat. 28. 18. Joh. 5. 22.

And now ſeeing the *Myſtery of Chriſt*, the *Word*, the *Light* that was vail'd under the Legal Shadows and Types, is much more *Reveal'd*, and ſhines more clearly without them, in this Goſpel-day of Chriſt, the Word; his face being more bright and glorious than *Moſes* face,

2 Cor. 3.

face, and the Glory of God in the face of Chriſt in the New Covenant, far excelling that of the Old : How careful and diligent therefore ought all of us, to be, to love and walk in this Light ; and to keep in this holy Covenant with God in Chriſt Jeſus our Light and Life. 2 Cor. 4.

And ſeeing the *Word*, *the Light*, was nigh even in the heart of *Old Iſrael*, or *Iſrael* after the Fleſh ; but more clearly manifeſt in the heart of *Spiritual Iſrael*, how greatly is *Iſrael* after the Spirit obliged conſtantly to love and obey this Light and glorious Diſpenſation ! Deut. 30.

And ſeeing the Fountain of Life which was opened in the time of the Law and Prophets, for *Juda* and *Jeruſalem*, and as it was promiſed a Fountain ſhould be opened to the Houſe of *David* and Inhabitants of *Jeruſalem*, to waſh them from Sin and Uncleanneſs. This is fulfilled unto us in Chriſt, in his Day, being more fully and plentifully opened and diſcovered in this *Goſpel day*, in the *New Covenant* (which is open and free for the Gentiles alſo, to come into, as well as Jews) which Jeſus Chriſt has ſealed and confirmed by his precious *Blood* and Death, Jer. 2. 13. Zech. 13.

Death, having thereby taken away the
Heb. 10. 9. *Firſt Teſtament, or Covenant*, that he might Eſtabliſh the *Second*; how greatly does it concern all in the Fear of the Lord, and in true Humility, to come unto, and dwell near this Fountain of Life and Mercy, and faithfully to perform the terms and conditions of this Covenant required of them, being God's Terms, and not Man's?

And O how excellent is the true and ſpiritual Knowledge of the Myſtery of Chriſt Jeſus our Lord, and of the *Power*
Phil. 3. 10. *of his Reſurrection*, to all who are made conformable to his Death, being Baptized thereinto, thorow Judgment, and the fellowſhip of his Sufferings! And how precious were (and are) the ſpiritual Gifts
Epheſ. 4. received and given unto men, by him, when he aſcended up on high, and Led Captivity Captive, and worthy to be truly and thankfully prized and improved by all who are *partakers thereof*. *O! the*
Epheſ. 3. *unſearchable Riches of Chriſt, the Riches of*
Col. 1. 27. *the Glory of this Myſtery*, which God has made known to his People, which is Chriſt in them, the hope of Glory.

And

And it being for this end that Chriſt both died, and roſe again, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the Dead and of the Living, *Rom.* 14. O how careful ought we all to be, not to live to our ſelves, but unto Chriſt the Lord, that he may be known to be *Our Lord*, and we his faithful Servants and Subjects, that whether we live or dye, we may be the Lord's, and for ever be with him. Jo. 17. 24. 1 Theſ. 4. 17.

O my Dear and Tenderly Beloved Friends, How great is the Bleſſing of the Goſpel! How great was, and is, the Love of God in ſending his *dear and only begotten Son*, even *the Son of his Love, to be the Saviour of the World*, and to bleſs us in turning every one of us from our Iniquities! And O what *Great and Excellent Bleſſings, Mercies and Benefits* are afforded and tendered to Mankind, both by the outward and inward coming of Chriſt Jeſus; both by his coming and appearance in the Fleſh and in the Spirit! And what eminent Teſtimony of the great Univerſal Love and Power of God, is given to Mankind, in giving his dear Son to taſte Death for every Man, and to be all that Bleſſing and all thoſe Bleſſings and 2 Cor. 5. 15, 16. Heb. 2. 9. Rom. 8. 32.

and good Things unto us which our Souls ſtood in need of, and for us to receive for the everlaſting Salvation, Health, Comfort and Happineſs of our Immortal Souls.

And, O how eminently hath God's great Power and Glory appeared in his dear Son Jeſus Chriſt, even from his miraculous Conception (by the Holy Ghoſt over-ſhadowing the Virgin *Mary*) to his great and wonderful Miracles, and to his glorious Reſurrection from the Dead, and
6. 4. his Aſcenſion into Glory in the Heavens! And who (as Teſtified) was manifeſt in theſe laſt times for you, who by *Him* do Believe in God, that raiſed *Him* up from the Dead, and gave *Him* Glory, that your Faith and Hope might be in God (1 *Pet.* 1. 20, 21.) And ſurely all this muſt needs tend the more to confirm our Truſt and Confidence in his *Divine Power* who rais'd up Jeſus from the Dead.

And now Bleſſed be the Lord our God, the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who, according to his abundant Mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively Hope, by the Reſurrection of Jeſus Chriſt from the Dead, even by the power thereof, to

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an Inheritance Incorruptible, and Undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reſerved in the Heaven, even for you who are kept by the Power of God, through Faith unto Salvation (as alſo Teſtified) (1 *Pet.* 1. 3, 4, 5.)

O Dear Friends, Keep your Faith in this divine Power of God; ſee that your Faith ſtands firm and continue therein, that everlaſting Salvation may be the end and reward thereof, and caſt not away your Confidence in the Lord, which hath great recompence of Reward, and your **Hope** *of the Glory of God*, and the Reſurrection thereunto, and of your Ariſing and Aſcending into Glory with Chriſt; retain and hold faſt unto the end, that the rejoycing of this your Hope, you may not be deprived of; you who are guided by the Counſel of God here, will he receive into Glory hereafter; our ſincere Belief, Faith, and Hope in him, being not only for a perfection of Holineſs and Purity here, in this life, but of Glory in that which is to come; let us hold faſt the ſame Faith and Hope to the end.

1 Cor. 2. 5.

Heb. 10. 35. Ro. 5. 2.

Pſal. 73. 24.

It being alſo according to the abundant Mercy and great Love of the Lord our

God that the eyes of your underſtandings ſhould be enlightned, that you may know what is the hope of his Calling, and what the Riches of the Glory of his Inheritance in the Saints, and what is the exceeding greatneſs of his Power to us-ward, who believe according to the working of his mighty Power which he wrought in Chriſt Jeſus, when he raiſed him from the Dead, and ſet him at his own right Hand in the Heavenly Places, (as is Teſtified, *Epheſ.* 1.) O look unto him who has enlightned you, that you may ſee and enjoy the Glory of his Inheritance **In You**, and wait to be kept by his divine Power, through Faith unto Salvation, and your poſſeſſion of that glorious Inheritance **In You**, which is in Chriſt Jeſus. Now to proceed with reſpect to the true Chriſtian State, and Exhortations thereunto.

I Teſtify, They are Chriſt's Real Friends, who truly Love and Obey him, and freely ſubmit to his Government in Spirit; they Honour him, and them will he Honour; they who ſuffer for, and with him, ſhall Reign with him in Glory, and be in Heavenly Places where he is: But they who rebel againſt his Light, and will not

not that he ſhould Rule and Reign over them, are his Enemies, and ſhall be ſlain in his ſight. Luk. 19. 27.

Of *Chriſt*, it was foretold, In the day of thy Power thy People ſhall be a willing People, and out of *Sion* ſhall go forth the Rod of thy Strength, Rule thou in the midſt of thine Enemies, *Pſal.* 110. Beloved Friends, It muſt be a ſtate of true and humble Submiſſion to Chriſt's Government, and a real ſelf-denial, and taking up the daily Croſs (ſo as to be Crucified with him) that will entitle us to the Crown; and there muſt be true Repentance, Humiliation, Converſion, and enduring Chaſtiſement with patience, where the fellowſhip and fruits of Chriſt's Sufferings come to be truly known and experienced in the Soul, and the power of his Reſurrection felt by all them who come to be made Conformable unto his Death, and Partakers of his Life in the Righteouſneſs of Faith; for it became him of whom, and by whom are all things, even in bringing many Sons to Glory, to make the Captain of our Salvation perfect thorow Sufferings; he who ever was Sinleſs and Perfect in Holineſs, obtain'd Per-

fection in Glory through Sufferings; and all thoſe who by his divine Power become the Sons of God, and whom *He* brings to Glory, he brings them, through Sufferings, to know the fellowſhip of the Sufferings of his dear Son, to have an inward
Iſa. 53. ſenſe of the Travel of his Soul, that the Seed, the holy Generation who know and partake of the bleſſed end, fruits, and effects thereof, may be brought forth, and encreaſe more and more in the Earth. It is that Seed, that Generation, that truly
Pſal. ſerves and follows him, that ſhall be e-
22. 30. ſteemed a holy Generation, and hereby God's good Pleaſure, his good Will is known to proſper in his hands, even in the hands of his dear Son, the Son of the Father's Love. O his great and unexpreſſible Love to Mankind through him! O how does his Glory ſhine in the face of his dear Son Chriſt Jeſus! The knowledge whereof God hath ſhined in our hearts, to give unto us, even by his own Word, his own divine Light inwardly ſhining; let us ever walk in his Light, and in Love to the ſame, and one to another. Let's all dwell in Love, that we may dwell in God who is Love; If we walk

walk in the Light, as he is in the Light, then have we fellowſhip one with another, and the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt his Son cleanſeth us from all Sin, from all Unrighteouſneſs, (1 *Joh.* 1. 7.) Let his Word of Life dwell in you, yea, dwell richly in you, thorowly Sanctify you, and make many Living Witneſſes and Miniſters of Righteouſneſs; and being converted and ſtrengthened of the Lord, ſtrengthen your Brethren in true Faith and Love of the Holy Spirit.

And let not the holy Silence, the Silence of all Fleſh, and Fleſhly Deſires and Imaginations be relinquiſhed or forſaken, but be frequently retired, and wait upon the Lord in true ſtillneſs for freſh Supplies of Life, of Strength, of Wiſdom and Counſel, from him who is the Wonderful Counſellor, *Yea, wonderful in Counſel, and excellent in working.* Iſa. 28. 39.

Your Soul's Nouriſhment, Health and Strength, is Spiritual; 'tis only Spiritual Meat and Drink that can Nouriſh the Soul, and that Soul that truly waiteth in the Light, in the Grace and Good Spirit of our God and his dear Son; that Soul that is truly ſilent upon God, receives

both Inſtruction, Counſel, Nouriſhment, Strength and Satisfaction from him; that Soul receives and feeds on the Living Bread, the Bread of Life which comes down from Heaven; and great is the Priviledge, and bleſſed and ſafe is the
Joh. 6. Habitation of ſuch Souls; He that eateth my Fleſh, and drinketh my Blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him, ſaith Chriſt Jeſus; O, bleſſed, ſafe, and ſweet Dwelling never to be forſaken!

And Dear Babes in Chriſt, and Children of the moſt High, Begotten and Born of the Incorruptible Immortal *Seed*, even of the *Word* of Eternal Life, which liveth and endureth for ever; Keep low in your Minds and Spirits unto the ſame *Immortal Seed*, the ſame Living, Everlaſting and Enduring *Word*, that all of you may both know the *True Root*, the Root of Life to *Bear* you, and make you *Fruitful* unto God, as you are kept in his Fear, in Humility, and Lowlineſs of Mind and Spirit, as in his ſight and preſence; for 'tis in this ſtate of holy Fear and Lowlineſs of Mind, that we know the Root to Bear us, and our Souls to receive divine Vertue therein; for we do not Bear the Root, but the Root Beareth us, we being in-

ingrafted and abiding therein, as our Lord ſaid, Abide in me, and I in you; The Branch cannot bring forth Fruit of it ſelf, unleſs it abide in the Vine; And, ſaith he, Without me (or ſeparate from me) ye can do nothing. Joh. 15 5.

And all in tender Love come into the Heavenly Communion, the Spiritual Communion, the Fellowſhip of the Holy Spirit, the Unity of the Faith, and of the Knowledge of the Son of God, for the Unity of the Faith, and Unity of the Knowledge of the Son of God, is a pretious and laſting Union, and being partakers together of that ſpiritual Meat and that ſpiritual Drink which all *Iſrael* did Eat and Drink of (even in the Wilderneſs, being delivered out of *Egypt* and *Egyptian* Bondage.) Hereby we know and experience the Bread which we break to be the Communion of the Body of Chriſt, and the Cup of Bleſſing (the Cup that's filled with Bleſſing) which we Bleſs, to be the Communion of the Blood of Chriſt. Who feed upon, and are nouriſhed by the *Word*, do eat his Fleſh; Who drink into the One Spirit, being Baptized therewith into One Body, and receive Spiritual Bleſſing, Comfort, and Refreſhment thereby,

ſuch know and do experience the Communion of the blood of Chriſt, who hath obtained eternal Redemption, and all Spiritual Bleſſings for us, by the *One Offering* of himſelf for us, and Redeeming us to God from all Iniquity. And having our Garments, or Robes, waſhed in the Blood of the Lamb, we may ſtand before his Throne, and ſing, Salvation to our God which ſitteth upon the Throne, and to the Lamb that is in the midſt thereof.

Titus 2. 14.

Rev. 7.

And now, *As* there ought to be a Godly Care in all Friends under our Holy Profeſſion of Chriſt, and of God, both in old and young, Men & Women, to keep their Garments clean from being ſpotted with the Fleſh, and themſelves unſpotted of the World, that the pure Religion may ſhine in them and on their parts, in a holy Converſation, in the ſight of God and Men; *So* there ought be a general tender and Chriſtian Care in the Fear of God, with reſpect to his Heritage & People, that Love, Concord and Peace in the Churches of Chriſt, may be followed, maintained and preſerved; and in all humbleneſs of mind, long ſuffering, and forbearing one another in Love, every one may be ſincerely concerned,

ned, and labour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace, *Epheſ.* 4.

And if any Difference in Judgment happen, about any matter or point of moment, to beware of raſh Judgment, or hard Cenſures on any hand againſt one another, and of making any Breaches, Schiſms, or Parties thereupon; for nothing will give the Enemy, and Adverſaries of Truth more Advantage than Diſcord and Diviſions thereby, and giving place to a ſpirit of enmity and ſtrife.

As the Child of God muſt not ſtrive, but be gentle towards all, inſtructing them that oppoſe themſelves; *So* it becomes us in Caſes of Difference in Judgment to be gentle one to another, and in meekneſs and amity, to be free and open in our Communication, and Converſation towards each other, for the Information and Inſtruction of any miſtaken, or ſuppos'd to be miſtaken; humbly deſiring the Lord, ſo to inſtruct all, as that Truth may clearly appear, and make convincing Deciſion in all caſes; and if Perſons in Difference would agree humbly to ſeek the Lord for an amicable compoſure and end thereof, it would ſave

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the Church from that trouble, and themſelves from future Animoſity or Offence one towards another, and their own weakneſs from being expos'd. And if all would bring their Deeds to the Light, and walk therein, there would be no occaſion of Offence, Diſcord, or Scandal in them.

Beloved Friends, Whatſoever ye do, in Word or Deed, do all in the Name of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, (*Coloſ.* 3. 17.) Keep all your ſolemn Meetings in his Name, Spirit and Power; do all the Lord's Buſineſs in his Name and Power, and in his Name and Fear, make Peace and Concord, and therein take care timely to compoſe Matters of Difference, either by Juſtice or Forgiveneſs between the Parties concerned; in all which, the Preſence and Power of Chriſt will be with you to aſſiſt you, for where Two *agree on Earth as touching any thing, they ſhall ask of our Heavenly Father*, (in the Name or Spirit of his dear Son Jeſus Chriſt) *the ſame ſhall be done for them of his Father which is in Heaven*, becauſe of his preſence in the midſt of them, (tho' but two or three) who meet in his Name, who is the wonderful Counſellor, the Prince of Peace.

Mat. 18. 19. 20.

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Always have a care that nothing be done thro' Strife or vain Glory, for that will but beget Strife and Contention, and Irreverent verboſe Diſcourſes to no purpoſe, to no juſt, nor true Reſolution, but Confuſion, and alſo Hurt to our Chriſtian Society, wherein all things ſhould be done without Murmuring and Diſputings; and the weak in the Faith not to be received into doubtful Diſputations, leſt they be ſtumbled and hurt thereby. And as our Meetings about the Lord's and his Churches Buſineſs and Service, are not for Conteſt, but for Counſel, let every one concerned therein, reverently mind his Power, and wait to feel his Preſence, and to know and receive his Counſel; and when his Counſel is open'd and given in any Aſſembly by any one, it may be in a few words; let none darken, wave or put by the ſame, with a multitude of words without Counſel; and beſides, the matter under Conſideration; for that beſpeaks Ambition and Emulation, which is but a fruit of the Fleſh, and ſavours of a Fleſhly mind that looks for Popularity, and a popular Eſteem, which will blow away and vaniſh like ſmoak. Phil. 2.

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We knowing and confeſſing the Power of God to be the Authority of our Meetings, both thoſe of Brethren and thoſe of Siſters in Chriſt; let *All* take great and ſerious care in the holy Fear of God, that they all be held and kept in the ſame Power and Authority; and let Chriſt be the Maſter of thoſe Aſſemblies, and the great Counſellor of Friends concerned therein, and *All* humbly ſubmit to his Counſel and Government, who as a Son is faithful over his Houſe, Rules and Keeps his Faithful Houſhold and Family in good Order, *Love*, and ſweet Peace; and great Peace have they who Love his Laws, the Law of the *Spirit of Life* in Chriſt Jeſus, the Law of *Love*, the Law of *Faith*, even the Laws of the New Covenant of Life and Peace.

Heb. 3. 6.

Moreover all ſolemn Aſſemblies and Meetings of Friends, Brethren, and Elders, held and kept in the Name, in the Power and Counſel of This our wonderful Counſellor and Prince of Peace, have their Counſellor near them, and their Counſel, Judgment and Authority from him, nigh and ready for them upon all weighty and neceſſary Occaſions. I hope no Aſſembly

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of Faithful Friends can be ignorant of what concerns our Publick Teſtimony, both in Chriſtian Doctrine and Practice, and therefore let all unneceſſary Queſtions, Diſputes and Controverſies be avoided; and every one attending our General Aſſembly to be careful of propoſing Queſtions about Perſonal Difference, or of expoſing the ſame, therein without the ſpecial Directions of his own reſpective Meeting or Meetings whereby he is Intruſted; and that ſuch as be ſo intruſted (or deputed) be likewiſe careful that they do not evade or undervalue the Power or Authority of their own reſpective Meetings, nor diſparage the ſame, either by ſeeming to want Advice, Power or Authority in known and neceſſary caſes, or forgetful of repeated Counſel already given, and of a long ſtanding; for that were alſo much below our Holy and Chriſtian Profeſſion of God and of Chriſt, being our Teacher and Miniſter. Our *Annual Aſſemblies* have long been and are of great Service, and will be ſo to the Churches of Chriſt through the great Love and Goodneſs of God to his People, (they abiding therein) for a *General Knowledge, Chriſti-*

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an Care, and *Overſight* among Friends, for promoting *Love* and *Good Works*, *Union*, *Concord*, and Good Order among them, and therefore ought not to be declined, but kept up, by the Faithful, in it's antient *Love*, Gravity and Senſe of the Lord's weighty Power and Wiſdom, for thoſe Good and Bleſſed Ends intended; and our ſaid Aſſembly not to be troubled nor detained with ſmall, or perſonal Occaſions, Queſtions, or particular Differences; our general Aſſembly muſt be concerned in the more weighty & univerſal Affairs thereof.

All dear Friends, have Salt in your ſelves, and Peace one with another, as our Lord *Chriſt* has exhorted, *Mat.* 9. 50. Our Strength, our Chriſtian Reputation, and Honour in the Lord, yea, and publick ſervice for the bleſſed Truth, as a People profeſſing Chriſtianity and Chriſtian Love, conſiſt in unity of Spirit, in true Love and Concord; herein neither the Enemy within, nor the Enemies without, can hurt us; herein the Lord's People and Family are not only as a City ſet upon a hill, but may be eſteemed *Sion*, a City without breaches. And I pray God it may be ever *ſo* in his Church, and with his People,

ple, in the preſent and future Ages. Oh! All Watch and Pray in the holy Spirit of *Love*, againſt the Spirit of Diſcord and Diviſion; for if the Adverſary prevail to make a Breach any where, if never ſo little, he'll ſtrive to widen it; and ſuch as join with him in that Work, ſowing Diſcord, regard not the Honour of God, or of his holy Truth, nor the good Reputation of his People; ſuch do not conſider nor care what Reproach they bring, nor how they crucify to themſelves the Son of God afreſh, and put him to open ſhame, by bringing reproach and ſcandal upon the way of Truth, by their pernicious ways, cauſing the ſame to be evil ſpoken of. But God hath diſcovered and rebuked, and will rebuke that ſpirit of Enmity, and preſerve the Meek and Humble (who truly fear him) out of its ſnares of Death.

Heb. 6. 6.

2 Pet. 2.

O, Dear and tenderly Beloved Friends, Let's Conſider Jeſus Chriſt, as our great *Apoſtle*, and *High Prieſt* of our Profeſſion, our *Great Mediator*, *Interceſſor* and *Advocate* with the Father, who Miniſters to us, and himſelf appears *in the preſence of God for us*, making Interceſſion for his Saints according to the Will of God, and

Heb. 7. 25. & 9. 24.

by

by his Spirit *in us*, which we are made livingly ſenſible of, his Spirit maketh *Interceſſion* with ſighs and groans which cannot be uttered: And becauſe we are Sons, God hath ſent forth the Spirit of his *Son* into our Hearts, crying, *Abba* Father; and certainly God hears his own Son for us, and in us; therefore all have recourſe to his Spirit in you, and be inward, low, and tender in your minds and ſpirits, ſo as to be ſenſible thereof, and thereby let your Souls daily Breathe to God, and then you'll feel and partake of the great Benefit, of Chriſt's Interceſſion and Mediation, that your Faith may not fail, but be ſtrengthened, and None of you diſcouraged by any Aſſaults of the Enemy, or Enemies of God's bleſſed Truth and People.

Rom. 8.

Gal. 4. 6.

The day is dawn'd and broken forth, wherein this Song ſhall be Sung, *We have a ſtrong City, Salvation hath the Lord our God appointed unto us for Walls and for Bulwarks*, that the Inhabitants and Citizens thereof may dwell ſafely, and be ſecured from the Enemies Invaſion, tho' he may raiſe Trenches and Bulwarks againſt it; and the Wicked, his Envious Agents, run

Iſa. 26. 1.

run round about the City and make a noiſe like a Dogg, and a hideous Barking, Railing and Roaring againſt the Inhabitants of this City of God, they are kept out; they are kept without the Walls, ſo that they cannot enter in, to hurt any who dwell within this Munition, within theſe Walls of Salvation. Pſal. 59. 6.

And now, O Dear Parents, Fathers and Mothers of Children, Are you Alive? Are you Alive in Chriſt unto God? Do you declare and ſhew unto your Children *His Truth*? If you be thus Alive unto God in Chriſt your ſelves, you'll be Lively, Zealous, and Careful in this weighty, near Concern and Truſt committed unto you: And as King *Hezekiah*, after his great Affliction, Declared and Confeſſed to God, The Grave cannot Praiſe thee, Death cannot Clebrate thee, They that go down into the Pit cannot Hope for thy Truth, *The Living*, *The Living*, he ſhall Praiſe thee, (or Confeſs thee) as I do this day, the Fathers unto the Children ſhall make Known (or Declare) thy Truth, *Iſa.* 38. O Parents, Conſider this, and earneſtly ſeek the Lord for your Childrens Good, and Indulge nothing in them that

tends to bring Death and Deſtruction upon them; Connive at nothing in them that tends to Diſhonour Truth, and you alſo.

And, O you Tender Children of Believing Parents, Are you inclined to Vertue? Are you Religiouſly inclined toward God your Creator, and his beloved Son Jeſus Chriſt your Redeemer? Turn to his Light in you, Love it, wait in it, and bring your Inclinations, Deſires, Words, and Actions unto the Light, to be prov'd and try'd, and in the Fear and Dread of Almighty God, Watch againſt all Corrupt and Vitious Inclinations, Deſires and Motions, and againſt all Temptations to Pride of Life, Vice, Intemperance, Exceſs both in Eating, Drinking, and Apparel, *&c.* That you may eſcape the Pit of Corruption here, and that of Miſery hereafter; and be ſober minded, as the Grace and Good Spirit of God Teacheth, That your Moderation, Sobriety, and Self-denial, and your Chriſtian and Pious Life and Converſation may ſhine before others, to their Convincement and Truth's Honour.

The Lord he knows we would not have a degenerate, corrupt Generation, to ſpring up

up in, or proceed from any of our Families, or to ſucceed us when we are gone, to bring Reproach upon our holy Profeſſion, and Diſhonour to their Believing Parents. 'Tis no ſmall Grief and Sorrow to many of the Lord's Servants and People, to ſee the great Depravity, the groſs Corruption which many of the Youth in our Age are fallen into, yea, too many pretending to Truth in ſome outward ſhew, and yet get up into a Spirit of Pride and corrupt Liberty, and clandeſtinely allure and draw one another into Looſeneſs, Extravagant Courſes and Sinful Exceſſes, which one way or other break out, and in Righteous Judgment are diſcovered to their ſhame who are Guilty. The Lord put a ſtop to thoſe Evils, and prevent the growth thereof for his Name and Seed ſake, and by his Chaſtizing Judgments, ſubdue and hide Pride from our Youth, and ſo place his holy Fear in their Hearts, that they may be delivered from the Snares of Death, and their Souls kept back from the Pit; and that they may ſerve the Lord God in true Fear and Humility, Honour and Obey their Parents in the Lord, and walk in his Way of Righ-

teouſneſs, and Counſel here, in this Life, that they may be received into Glory in Chriſt Jeſus, in that which is to come.

It has been many times matter of Refreſhment and Comfort to me, that ſince the Lord has been pleaſed to remove many of his Antient and Faithful Witneſſes, and Miniſters of the Everlaſting Goſpel, that he has in his Mercy and tender Love raiſed up and brought forth more ſuch, to bear a Living Teſtimony for his Name and bleſſed Truth, and in a true Zeal for the ſame againſt what's contrary, both of young Men and Women, according to their meaſures of the Heavenly Gift and Abilities given unto them, ſeverally. That our moſt gracious Lord God for this end has opened the fountain and ſprings of Life and Wiſdom in Chriſt Jeſus, which *All* who ſingly apply their Hearts unto him, and ſincerely ask of him, may have a ſhare and part in, and be his Witneſſes and made Friends of God, and Prophets; for which end Divine Wiſdom enters into ſanctified Souls and Hearts.

Wiſd. 7. 27.

But my Dear and Beloved Brethren and Siſters, of the younger Off-ſpring and Race, Whatever Gifts of Underſtanding,

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Openings, Knowledge or Utterance are given to you, by the bleſſed Spirit; keep in true Fear and Humility within your own Gifts, Meaſures, and Attainments; ſtrive not, ſtrain not, beyond your particular Abilities given you of the Lord; but as every one has received the Gift, ſo let him miniſter as of the Ability God giveth, and not ſtrive to be more in the ſight of Men than you are to God, in his ſight, but rather more inward and retired unto him who ſees the inſide, and knows what is in man, and what ſupplies are neceſſary for every one. Thoſe Sheep which Chriſt puts forth, and goes before, are under a ſafe Conduct, and he gives unto them Eternal Life; and ſuch are Living Witneſſes for him and his Power: But they who put themſelves forth, run before him the true Shepherd and ſafe Guide, are very unſafe and miſs their way, and do no ſervice, but diſſervice. As alſo there's great danger in any Perſons ſtriving to inlarge in declaration beyond their Ability and Gifts given them, or that they may appear equal to, or above them who are their Elders in Chriſt, (and before them in Experience, and in the Work of the

1 Pet. 4. 10.

Jo. 10. 4.

Miniſtry) and thereby ſeek Popularity and Eſteem, or Applauſe among the People; this is Corrupt ſelf, Phariſaical ſelf; this will never do, nor hold, this Fleſhly Emulation will come to nought, all that which comes of it, will vaniſh and blow away like Smoak and Chaff; but the Word of the Lord endureth for ever.

O all you our younger Friends, Brethren and Siſters, Be low in your own Minds and Thoughts, and little in your own Eyes, and in Godly Fear and Humility ſeek Wiſdom; and apply your Hearts to that Wiſdom which is from above, which is Pure and Peaceable, Gentle and Eaſy to be Entreated; and therein be good Examples of Chriſtianity, of Love, Meekneſs, Gentleneſs, Humility and Self-denial; and if any one want Wiſdom, ask of God. They that ſeek me early ſhall find me (ſaith Wiſdom). And take heed of running out in Sights, Openings, Speculations, or Viſions, from the Power, the Life, the Spirit, the Fountain from whence true Diſcoveries come; 'Tis not enough to go up to *Jeruſalem*, *the Viſion* of Peace, but there the true Diſciples of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt muſt wait till they be endued with

Pſal. 90. 12. Jam. 3. 17.

Prov. 8. 17.

Power

Power from on High, the Promiſe of the Father; the powerful Gift of the Holy Ghoſt, before they go forth in his Goſpel Miniſtry as his Apoſtles and Ambaſſadors.

Let the ſame Mind, the ſame humble lowly Mind be in you, that was in Chriſt Jeſus our Lord and bleſſed Example, who took on him the form of a Servant, and was made in the faſhion of a Man, and humbled himſelf, and became Obedient to death, even to the death of the *Croſs*; wherefore God hath highly exalted *Him*, and he that truly humbleth himſelf ſhall be exalted; it is the Humble God teacheth to know his Judgments, and the Meek, he will guide in true Judgment, true Underſtanding and Diſcerning between Good and Evil, that they may Love and Imbrace the Good, and Eſchew and Shun the Evil. Phil. 2.

They are the true Subjects of Chriſt's Kingdom who truly follow his Example of Humility, Self-denial and Bearing the Croſs; and for this End hath God Choſen us *in Him*, that we ſhould be holy and without blame before him in Love: And that all concerned among us be careful and circumſpect, with reſpect to our Miniſtry and holy Profeſſion: That no Epheſ. 1. 3, 4.

Offence in any thing be given to cauſe
2 Cor. 6. 3. the ſame to be blamed; and that Self-Love and Coveteouſneſs, which is Idolatry, be Judged out for ever, and carefully watched againſt and avoided; and all Self-exaltation, Contention and Strife ſhut out for ever, for the Lord's Hand and Power is againſt them, and they'll not proſper who give themſelves Liberty therein, and will not come down into Humility and Self-denial. That Spirit that puffs up into Self-conceit and Pride of Heart is not of God or Chriſt, nor of the New Birth, but at Enmity againſt his Spirit and Faithful Servants and Wit-
3 Jo. 9. 10. v. neſſes. It is a **Diotrephes** that Loves Preheminence, that will Exalt himſelf a Judge above and over Faithful Brethren in Chriſt, and againſt them.

And it is a *Demas* that will forſake them and Truth alſo, to Imbrace the preſent World; and it is a *Judas* that will turn againſt the Innocent, to betray them into the hands of their Enemies and Perſecutors; Let Judgment for ever be ſet upon the Head of that falſe Treacherous Spirit, and that *Son of Perdition* that would lead any into the way and ſtate

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of *Diotrephes*, *Demas*, *Cain* or *Judas*; such were Troublers of the Church of Chriſt of old, and ſuch have been ſo in our day, and many may take warning from their miſerable Apoſtacy; the great Apoſtacy was introduced of old by ſuch, againſt whom the Apoſtle *Paul* gave particular Notice and Warning, 2 *Tim.* 3. Tho' they had a *form* of Godlineſs, yet denied the Power thereof, and therefore to be denied and turned away from. 2 Tim. 4. 10. 3 Jo. 9.

Dear Friends, All who truly mind, and faithfully keep to, the Power of Godlineſs, it will preſerve you out of all thoſe Evils thoſe Apoſtates fell into, who departed from the Faith. This Power will keep you out of Self-Love, Covetouſneſs, Pride, high Mindedneſs, Boaſting, Fierceneſs, deſpiſing them that are Good, as alſo out of all Whiſperings, Backbitings, Detracting, and Tale-carrying, tending to Striſe and Diviſions, and out of all other Evils and miſchievous Works of the old Enemy, the Sower of Diſcord and Miſchief, whoſe Seeds muſt not grow in God's Garden; tho' the Tares are ſuffered to grow in the World until the Great Harveſt. And 'tis his great Mercy, 2 Cor. 12. 20.

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the Wheat, the good Seed, the Children of the Kingdom are not plucked up, nor rooted out of the World through the Envy of the Wicked One, and his Agents, the Perſecutors. The Lord our God his Care and ſpecial Providence have been greatly and manifeſtly over us for our Preſervation ſince we were a People raiſed up to be Children of his Kingdom, bleſſed be his glorious Name for ever.

And tho' the Devil has come down among the Inhabitants of the Earth in great Wrath and Fury, and thereby Influenced and Inſtigated his Agents, of divers ſorts, againſt the Lord's Seed and Heritage; ſuch his great Wrath and Fury hath been, and is ominous of the ſhortneſs of his time, as it was Prophecied, Wo to the Inhabitants of the Earth and of the Sea, for the Devil is come down unto them, having great Wrath, becauſe he knoweth he hath but a ſhort time; as the Devils knew their Tormenter, and that the time of their Torment would come, ſo the Devil underſtands his approaching downfal, his Kingdom being greatly ſhaken, and his Power

Rev. 12. 12. Mat. 8. 29.

often

often over-ruled and reſtrained, and the raging Waves of the Sea bounded and limitted by the Great Over-ruling Power of the Lord our God, by whoſe Power we have often ſeen the bluſtering Winds and Storms allay'd and quieted, for his Seed ſake, and his People's great Comfort in the quiet enjoyment of their Solemnities, and bleſſed Aſſemblies honoured with his Divine Refreſhing Preſence. Glory, Honour, and Praiſe be to his Excellent Name and Power, who Commands the Winds and the Seas, and who is Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, who is on his Way, and at Work, to promote his own Kingdom in Righteouſneſs; and by his Truth, and Meekneſs, and Righteouſneſs, proſpers and prevails in the Hearts of many, who are willing and ſincerely reſolved to be true and faithful Subjects to him, under his Government, that they may enjoy his Peace; and alſo He, by his Power and Righteous Judgments, will prevail over his Enemies, and ſubdue the Kingdom of *Antichriſt*, and overthrow *Myſtery Babylon*, the great Whore, (the falſe Church) and the perſecuting Powers, that have

Pſa. 45. 4.

been

been made Drunk and *Wrathful*, with the Wine of the wrath of her Fornications: The Confuſions, Diſtractions, Fury and Revenge, among them, are a manifeſt Indication of Judgment from the Lord upon them, and the dividing of *Babylon* the great Harlot, and Mother of Harlots, is very ominous of her Judgment and Downfal, and that as the holy Prophets, Saints, and Martyrs, have deeply ſuffered by her, they ſhall rejoyce over her; yea, even the Heavens, and they that dwell therein, ſhall rejoyce over that Wrathful Harlot (that has drunk the Blood of the Saints) when her Judgment is come, that ſhe muſt drink the Wine of the Wrath of God, even the Cup of his Fury.

Rev. 16. 19.

O my Dear Friends, and Brethren, Look unto the Lord, to feel him, our Salvation and Strength, which is near us; mind his Power and Kingdom, that the Kingdom of our God, and the Power of his Chriſt, we all may enjoy, and daily feel to be our ſupport, ſtay, and ſtrength, to the end. And all take unto you, and put on you Spiritual Armour, the whole Armour of God, the Armour of Light,

Epheſ. 6.

you

you dwelling and walking in the Light, therein you have your Armour of Defence, and Proof againſt *Satan*, and all his Attempts, and Malicious Agents and Apoſtates, who are made Drunk with Envy, and become Wrathful againſt the Innocent, againſt Chriſt's true Spouſe and Church, by their Drinking of the *Whore's Cup*, of the Wine of the Wrath of her Fornications, and Whoredom, from Chriſt, from his Light, from his Grace, having turn'd it into Wantonneſs, and become Wanton againſt Chriſt; the Spirit of Whoredom has prevail'd over them, and they are become the worſt Apoſtates, who are turned into Wrath and Envy: Such are they that *fall away*, Heb. 6. that *Sin wilfully* after Divine Taſtes, and Gifts, and Knowledge of the Truth received, they Crucify, to themſelves, the Lord of Life afreſh, and ſeek to put him to open ſhame, to open Reproach, by Defaming and Reproaching his holy Truth, and faithful Servants: Such are compared to that Ground that bringeth forth *only* Bryars and Thorns, to rend and tear, and is ſaid to be nigh unto Curſing, whoſe end is to be Burn'd; ſuch wilful Apoſtates,

ſtates, by their Contempt and Malice, are alſo ſaid to have trodden under foot the Son of God, and counted the *Blood of the Covenant*, wherewith they were ſanctified, an unholy thing, and to have done deſpite to the Spirit of Grace. Oh! Lamentable Apoſtacy, the higheſt degree of Apoſtacy, 'twas of this Apoſtate Spirit, the great Whore, Myſtery *Babylon*, came; of this Spirit, the falſe Church, the Perſecuting Church ſprang, and ſhe in Perſecution and Cruelty followed the ſteps of the old Perſecuting Heathen, againſt the Primitive Chriſtians, and Martyrs of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Heb. 10.

But God hath, and muſt have a faithful People, a People, True, and Chaſte in their Love and Obedience unto him, keeping Covenant with him, *Jewels* of his own making up, that ſhall be his own peculiar and choice Treaſure preſerved in Chriſt Jeſus, through Faith and Obedience unto his Heavenly Kingdom and Glory, and in them his Government and Peace will encreaſe; and as Chriſt's Kingdom does encreaſe, *Antichriſt's* Kingdom muſt and will decreaſe.

Beloved

Beloved Friends, Let none uſurp his Throne, upon whoſe ſhoulders the Government of his Church and People is laid; let none aſſume to themſelves, and exerciſe Lordſhip over his Family; But let him, the Lord, Reign, that the Earth may Rejoyce: And all walk humbly with him, and under his Government, in the Bleſſed and Lovely Order of his Houſe and Family. And Labour in the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, to promote his Government, and Teſtimony, and good Order in Converſation one to another, and towards all Men. Thoſe Elders, Overſeers, *Helps*, and *Governments*, which Chriſt has appointed and ſet up in his Church, (which is his Body purchaſed by him) following his Holy, Meek, and Humble Example, are truly helpful, being ſubſervient to Chriſt our Head: But if any ſtrive to be great and popular, or for Maſtery and Dominion over the Lord's Heritage, or to overrule the ſame with Rigour, or Severity, or be prone to ſmite their fellow Servants, or to watch for Evil againſt the Miniſtry, and to Judge others Gifts; ſuch do not proſper in their own; and ſuch

1 Cor. 12. 28.

ſuch will trouble the Church, and the Lord's Power will debaſe and bring them under.

1 Pet. 5. 5. Let all be cloathed with Humility, for God reſiſteth the Proud, but giveth Grace to the Humble. And as the Advice was to *Timothy*, Be thou an Example of the Believers, in Word, in Converſation, in Charity, in Spirit, in Faith, in Purity, 1 *Tim.* 4. 12. And to *Titus*, That the Aged Men be Sober, Grave, Temperate, Sound in Faith, in Charity, in Patience, *Tit.* 2. For if the contrary to any of theſe Chriſtian Vertues, and Fruits of the holy Spirit, appear in any of the Aged, it will ſhew weakneſs and unſoundneſs in them, and leſſen their Eſteem, and Intereſt, in the Eyes and Hearts of the Younger. As alſo that other Advice to *Titus*, is very weighty and neceſſary, In all things ſhewing thy ſelf a Pattern of Good Works; in Doctrine ſhewing Uncorruptneſs, Gravity, Sincerity, ſound Speech that cannot be Condemned; that he that is of the contrary Part may be Aſhamed, having no Evil to ſay of you; and, to be ſure, Shame and Confuſion will come upon them

Titus 2. 7. 8.

them who watch for Evil againſt the Innocent and Unblameable in Converſation. O, 'tis the holy and harmleſs who are the Sons of God without Rebuke, whoſe Light will ſhine, and Brightneſs appear, among the Perverſe and Crooked Generations. Phil. 2. 15.

O the Kingdom of our God, and the Power of his Chriſt, all Friends ſeriouſly mind and wait for; ſo as *He* may Reign whoſe right it is, that *His* Power may reſt upon you for your conſtant Preſervation, and laſting ſafety in Chriſt Jeſus, whoſe Dominion and Power is, and will be over all, even over his Enemies and Rebels, in Judgment; over his Saints and true Subjects, in loving Kindneſs, Mercy and Peace, in his Peaceable Kingdom. And for *Sion*'s ſake he will Rebuke Kings, Princes, and Nations and Peoples, and abaſe the Proud, and Exalted in the Earth, and cauſe the Mighty to bow before him; and Fearfulneſs, Terror, Shame and Confuſion, to come upon the Hypocrites, the Treacherous Backſliders, the Falſe hearted Temporizers, the Malitious Apoſtates, the Furious Incendi-

cendiaries, and all the Proud Contemners and Scorners of the Way of Truth, against whom God has a heavy and ſevere Controverſy, which he will certainly plead, and manifeſt in his own day and time, tho' he be a long-ſuffering God, and of great Compaſſion, to the truly Penitent, and to all who truly humble themſelves under his mighty Hand.

And now, Beloved and Tender Friends, this Advertiſement and Caution, in the Love of my Heavenly Father, preſſes upon me to impart unto you, that as it is greatly neceſſary for all to be watchful in the Light, that the depths of *Satan* (as they ſpeak) may be diſcovered; ſo it is very ſafe for all to put on the Armour of Light, the whole Armour of God, to be enabled to ſtand againſt the Enemies various Transformings, and ſubtil Workings, to deceive and beguile *unſtable* and *unſettled minds*, to hurry ſome away from the Light, and from the pure Motions and ſafe Conduct of the Holy Spirit, into vain Imaginations and high Conceipts of themſelves above what they are, which is a dangerous

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ſtate of Deluſion, and ſelf-exaltation; and ſuch as are addicted to high mindedneſs, the Enemy lies near to delude and cauſe them to Err in Judgment, and ſtumble in Viſion, and miſtake in Prophecy, and thereby to miniſter Occaſion of Offence, Reproach and Stumbling.

Oh! Beware of the Enemie's Tranſformings, and of falſe Prophets, who follow their own Spirits, and ſee nothing. Beware of that Spirit that would cauſe any to run in the ſtrength of their own Imaginations, when the Lord never ſent them, nor commanded them; theſe are not led by the Spirit of Chriſt, who deſire Fire may come down from Heaven to deſtroy Mens Lives, or deſtruction upon the Nation; and (in Imitation of true Prophets) take upon them, and preſume to denounce ſuch legal Curſes and *Severe outward Judgments and Deſtructions National*, as were threaten'd in the Law againſt Old *Iſrael*, for their Idolatrous Whoredoms, and then are tempted to Deſire the ſame may ſpeedily come to paſs, that they may be e-

ſteemed true Prophets. That Spirit will never turn People to God, nor into his holy Fear, but it's preſumptuous Work rather tends to the great ſurpriſal of poor ſimple People, with conſternation and panick Fears, and to cauſe Deſpair and Diſtractions, and not to ſettle their Minds in the Light; this *raſh furious Spirit*, not conſidering the bleſſed *Seed* and *Heritage* of God in this Nation, nor his Long-ſuffering becauſe thereof; whilſt the true Goſpel Miniſters are tenderly and earneſtly Labouring and Travailing therein, to perſwade People to Repentance and Converſion (with Prayers and Interceſſions for all men) and to turn them from Darkneſs and Sin to Chriſt, the True Light, and from *Satan*'s Power to God, and to ſettle their minds in the Light, that they may receive Remiſſion of their Sins, and an Inheritance with the Saints in the Light.

And although there be many high Provocations in this Land, incurring the great Diſpleaſure of God, to bring *ſevere Rebukes* upon it, and to *draw down heavy*

heavy Judgments and *Calamities* upon the People (as he hath at times heretofore done in part) becauſe of *Abominable Pride*, great Hypocriſy, and *Sinful Exceſſes*, Swearing and Curſing, *&c.* abounding; yet is God in Mercy and long Forbearance, ſparing to Deſtroy and lay Waſte the Nation, for his *Holy Name and Seed's* ſake, which he has placed and planted in it, and will gather and plant more thereof, even in this the Land of our Nativity; having many other Sheep in it, not yet gathered to the One Sheep-fold of the chief Shepherd.

Moreover, Let it be tenderly conſidered, and farther obſerv'd, That the true Prophets and Miniſters of Chriſt, when they have any ſpecial or extraordinary Meſſage (of ſome eminent Judgment) committed unto them by expreſs Viſion, or divine Revelation; how tender and careful are they (before they divulge the ſame! What Fear! Yea, what Dread! Yea, what Brokenneſs of Heart and Spirit! Yea, what deep Humiliation, is upon them before

they Expoſe the Matter in publick! And what tender care is upon their Spirits, that they may not proceed, without the Unity and Prayers of *their Faithful Brethren.* And how ſoon are they felt and underſtood by Faithful Brethren, and Friends, even in the ſame Spirit of Love and Life, wherein our Union with the Lord, and one another ſtands; out of, and above, all Furious, Imaginary, Exalted, and Luciferian Spirits, and out of all Runnings and Strivings, in the Will of the Fleſh. What an humble, tender and compaſſionate Temper and Spirit were the True Prophets in, when they were often in deep Sorrow, for *Iſrael*, that they ſorrowfully Lamented the Provoking Sins and Calamities of the People (and how conditional in Prophecy? *Iſai.* 1. 19, 20. *Jer.* 18. 7, 8.) As Chriſt himſelf wept over *Jeruſalem*, lamenting her caſe, becauſe of her approaching Deſtruction and Deſolation, having obſtinately refuſed her own Mercy, and withſtood the day of her Viſitation. And now the Goſpel Miniſters are not

Jer. 9.

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ſo generally Required to Denounce ſuch ſevere Deſtructions and Deſolations outward, as Evangelically to Prophecy unto Edification and Comfort in the Church of Chriſt, (1 *Cor.* 14. 3.) nor ſo much to inſiſt upon what *Temporal Judgments*, or *Calamities* God may bring upon the World, *as* to warn them of *Eternal Judgment, or Wrath to come*, upon the Rebellious and Impenitent; that the People may Repent and find Mercy, whilſt they have a day of God's gracious Viſitation and Salvation, tendered to them, in which their Souls may be ſaved; that they may not dye in their Sins, but eſcape the Wrath to come, ſeeing *the Lord is not willing that any ſhould Periſh, but that all ſhould come to Repentance*, 2 Pet. 3. 9, 15. What is before in a Godly Care tenderly Caution'd, is not intended to limit the holy Spirit of Prophecy, nor to diſcourage any true Prophet, in any divine Commiſſion, or ſpecial Meſſage from the Lord, as touching *outward Judgments*, or *Calamities*; For, behold, he maketh *Deſolations* in the Earth, be-

fore he cauſeth *Wars* to ceaſe unto the end thereof, *Pſal.* 46. And *John* the Apoſtle, in the *Revelations*, had eminent Diſcoveries both of Judgments and Plagues to be poured out upon the Kingdom of the Beaſt and Antichriſt, as well as of the Proſperity of Chriſt's Kingdom.

And now to Conclude:

My Dear and Well-beloved Friends, both in this Age and in the Ages to come; ſeeing the Lord our God hath eminently Bleſſed, Comforted and Honoured our ſolemn *Aſſemblies* with his Glorious and Life giving preſence: I Beſeech and Exhort you all to Obſerve, and Frequent and Keep to thoſe our Aſſemblies, Religious Meetings and Solemnities; and prize it as a great Mercy of the Lord, when you have them to Reſort unto; and therein Meet in the Name, Spirit and Power of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, ſo to know and feel *him* preſent, in the midſt of you, to be your

Pſa. 89. 7. & 111. 1. & 107. 32.

Heb. 10. 25.

Mat. 18. 20.

your Minister and Wonderful Counsellour, by his Blessed Spirit, Light, and Grace. Let his *Word* dwell richly in you, to your Edification and Comfort. To Meet in his Name, Power, and Spirit, must be a Real Meeting in Spirit; a Meeting in Love, a Meeting in Unity. There must be an *Inward* Meeting, as well as an *Outward*, to Live and Keep in this Blessed Unity and Nearness of Spirit in Christ Jesus, in whom is, and stands the Glorious Union and Communion, Peace and Joy of all the Faithful in this Life, and much more in that which is to come, World without End.

And now to *Him*, I tenderly commit you all, who is able to do exceeding abundantly in you, and for you, and us all, above all that we can ask or think, *according to his Power that worketh in us*; to his Praise, and our lasting Peace: To whom be Glory in his Church, even by Christ Jesus, throughout all Ages, World without End, Amen; In whom is my Tender Salutation of True Love and Real Charity

Ephes. 3. 20.

Charity to all the *Faithful* in Chriſt Jeſus, both in *This*, and all other Nations whereſoever they be. My fervent Prayers alſo are, for *Sion*'s Proſperity, to the End of Time here, That ſhe may Triumph, and Shine in Glory hereafter, and for evermore.

London, the 9th of the 8th Month, 1703.

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